



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q67501

Bum-soo KIM, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/029,966

Group Art Unit: ²¹⁸⁶~~2185~~

Confirmation No.: 5429

Examiner:

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Filed: December 31, 2001

MAY 03 2004

For: **FLASH MEMORY MANAGEMENT METHOD**

Technology Center 2100

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement, dated March 31, 2004, Applicant elects Group I, claims 1-15 for examination. This election is made with traverse.

MPEP § 803 provides that if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits. In the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that the claims of Groups I, II and III are classified in separate classes. Notwithstanding the manner in which subject matter may be classified in the USPTO for search purposes, which in any event is not determinative of dependent and distinct inventions within the Statute or the Rules, the claims of Groups I, II and III are so inextricably interrelated that either group of claims cannot be comprehensively examined without also searching those areas in which the other group is classified.

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
U.S. APP. NO. 10/029,966

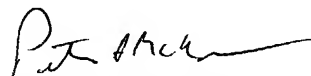
Moreover, while acquiescence in a restriction requirement and the attendant filing of a Divisional application surely represents the "path of least resistance", the cumulative government filing, issue and maintenance fees alone involved in pursuing such course of action currently totals more than \$8000, which seems a high price indeed to spare the examiner from whatever additional search may be necessary.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant requests that the requirement be withdrawn upon reconsideration.

Applicant reserves the right to file a Divisional Application directed to non-elected claims 16-38.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: April 30 2004

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